

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 AID-05 DOE-11 SOE-02
COME-00 TRSE-00 HA-05 PC-01 /120 W
-----115927 011512Z /43

O R 011441Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7133
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AEMBASSY PARIS 3631
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0493

VALLETTA FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, NATO, ET, IR, SA, SO
SUBJ: MASS RALLY HELD IN SUPPORT OF PMAC CHAIRMAN'S JAN 30 SPEECH

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 0450, B. ADDIS ABABA 0468,

SUMMARY: ON 24 HOURS NOTICE, ADDIS ABABA NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES) DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY
ARE CAPABLE OF ENLISING LARGE SEGMENT OF POPULATION,
THIS TIME PROBABLY OVER 200,000 PEOPLE, TO EXPRESS "SUP-
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PORT" FOR PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
(PMAC) CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AND HIS POLICIES. RALLY WAS
HELD OSTENSIBLY TO CONDEMN NATO, SAUDI ARABIAN AND
IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA, BUT IT ALSO DWELT ON IN-
TERNAL SITUATION, ESPECIALLY INTENSIFICATION OF RED
TERROR CAMPAIGN. CROWD WAS REPORTEDLY MODERATELY EN-
THUSIASTIC BUT QUITE ORDERLY AND SELF-CONTROLLED.

FOUR SPEAKERS AT RALLY REEMPHASIZED SOME OF THEMES FROM MENGISTU'S JAN 30 SPEECH, BUT BROADENED GROUP OF ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIA AND HER REVOLUTION TO INCLUDE INTERNAL REACTIONARIES, NOTABLY EPRP. NUMBER OF SLOGANS WERE NATURALLY ANTI-AMERICAN BUT GENERALLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF ETHIOPIA'S BEING "UNWORRIED BY NATO'S WARNING/THREAT." END SUMMARY

1. TWENTY-FIVE ADDIS ABABA HIGHER KEBELE CHAIRMEN WERE NOTIFIED AFTERNOON FOLLOWING MENGISTU SPEECH THAT A RALLY WOULD BE HELD THE NEXT DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN. KEBELES SUCCESSFULLY ASSURED A LARGE CROWD TO CHANT SLOGANS AND LISTEN TO SPEECHES BY MAYOR OF ADDIS ABABA, CHAIRMAN OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU), POLITBURO REPS AND MENGISTU. SPEECHES WERE PRECEDED BY SELF-EXPOSURE OF SOME ALLEGED ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP) MEMBERS AND EXCERPTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S JAN 30 SPEECH.

2. ADDIS ABABA MAYOR, DR. ALEMU ABEBE, IMPLICATED THE AMERICAN RULING CLASS FOR THE MASSACRE OF ETHIOPIANS BY FASCIST ITALY IN 1935, ALLEGED THAT NATO COUNTRIES ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THE REVOLUTION AND DEMANDED THAT THESE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES TAKE THEIR HANDS OFF ETHIOPIA. HE CAUTIONED THAT ADDIS ABABA MUST ALSO BE CLEANSED OF ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES, ESPECIALLY EPRP,
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TO ENSURE INTERNAL PEACE AND SECURITY. HE STATED THE RED TERROR CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE IN ADDIS ABABA WITH REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE.

3. AETU CHAIRMAN GEDLU TEKLE IDENTIFIED ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT CONFLICT WITH THE STRUGGLE BEING FOUGHT BY ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM. HE URGED ETHIOPIANS TO ORGANIZE AND ARM THEMSELVES TO CHALLENGE NATO'S PLOT. GEDLU THEN WARNED AGAINST CURRENT EPRP TACTICS OF SELF-CONFESSION TO ESCAPE LIQUIDATION AND LATER INFILTRATE "PROGRESSIVE" ORGANIZATIONS. HE TOO STATED THAT RED TERROR MUST AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE URBAN AREAS.

4. UNIDENTIFIED POLITBURO REP ACCUSED NATO COUNTRIES OF ALIGNING THEMSELVES WITH SOMALIA BUT BOASTED THEY WOULD BE DEFEATED BECAUSE OPPRESSED ETHIOPIAN MASSES STRIVING TO MAKE WAR EFFORT AND RED TERROR CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID ROLE OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS, I.E., POLITBURO, IS TO ISSUE GUNS, POLITICIZE AND ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE AND TO INTENSIFY THE RED TERROR CAMPAIGN.

5. PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU SPOKE BRIEFLY -10-15 MINS), TOUCHING LIGHTLY ON ANTI-NATO THEMES HE RAISED JAN 30. HE URGED THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR ETHIOPIA TO SHOW IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES THAT "WE WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE." MENGISTU REPORTEDLY SAID (ENGLISH TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE) THE NATO PLOT AGAINST ETHIOPIA ONLY SHOWS THE PROGRESS OF OUR REVOLUTION. WE REALIZE AN ENORMOUS STRUGGLE LIES AHEAD UNTIL OUR REVOLUTION ACHIEVES ITS FINAL GOALS, BUT OUR STRUGGLE WILL AND MUST CONTINUE. OUR REVOLUTION AND OUR NATION'S BORDERS CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED. THE RED TERROR CAMPAIGN MUST BE INTENSIFIED AND WILL CONTINUE WITH REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE UNTIL ALL ANTI-PEOPLE ELEMENTS ARE WIPED
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OUT.

6. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS ARE SPECULATING THAT NATIONWIDE SPEECH AND MASS RALLY FORESHADOW IMMINENT ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND MENGISTU'S CALLS TO PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL PRIDE TO BE SHOWN NOW WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT THIS HYPOTHESIS. WHILE CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SOVIET-LINE RHETORIC PERVADED RALLY, PRES. CARTER WAS NOT ATTACKED PERSONALLY, AND INTERNAL ENEMIES WERE GIVEN EQUAL IF NOT MORE TIME. IT IS NATURALLY DISTURBING TO NOTE THAT ALL THE SPEAKERS REITERATED THAT RED TERROR CAMPAIGN WILL BE INTENSIFIED, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ITS ALREADY INTENSE LEVEL.
MATHERON

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